Policy to Combat Health Risks Threats

2276. SHRI R.K. ANAND:
SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA:
SHRI JHUMUK LAL BHENDIA:

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to intervene in the cases involving health risks and health threats like the recent deaths of 140 children in Andhra Pradesh due to Viral Laryngitis/Meningitis;

(b) whether Government's decision to send a team of doctors to the State came in late;

(c) whether the Indian Institute of Communicable Diseases was contacted by the State; and

(d) if so, whether the disease was speedily and correctly identified by IICD?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) While control of outbreaks of any disease is the responsibility of the respective State Governments, Government of India provides technical support to the States by sending expert teams to the affected states for guidance. During the recent outbreak of viral encephalitis in Andhra Pradesh, support has also been provided for laboratory confirmation for diagnosis of the outbreaks. In addition to the insecticides and larvicides already provided under the National Anti Malaria Programme, arrangements have been made for additional supply of Malathion (Technical) for fogging and larvicides for use in affected areas of Andhra Pradesh. As per reports received (upto 5th August, 2003) from the State Health Authorities, there have been 306 cases and 168 deaths due to viral encephalitis during 2003 in Andhra Pradesh.

(b) to (d) The team from National Institute of Communicable Disease (NICD) visited the affected areas of Andhra Pradesh from 2—6 July, 2003 for investigation and technical support immediately after the news of outbreak was reported and held discussions with the State Health Authorities.

The Central Teams from the National Institute of Communicable Diseases (NICD), New Delhi and the National Institute of Virology (NIV), Pune also visited the outbreak affected areas. Laboratory reports from NICD and NIV indicate that the outbreaks in Andhra Pradesh is due to viral encephalitis. The Government of India deputed another team

of 10 Paediatricians from Dr. R.M.L. Hospital, Safdarjung Hospital and Kalawati Saran Children Hospital, Delhi to visit Andhra Pradesh. Their findings indicate that the clinical picture was compatible with viral encephalitis.

AIDS awareness among sex workers

2277. SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA:
SHRI R.K. ANAND:
SHRI JHUMUK LAL BHENDIA:

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of NGOs involved in educating sex workers in various red light areas about AIDS/HIV;

(b) the funds granted to such NGOs during the last one year;

(c) the amount of funds utilized by such NGOs till now;

(d) whether Government are satisfied with the pace at which such NGOs are working for spreading awareness in the red light areas; and

(e) if so, the details of some of the major programmes being executed by such NGOs?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) to (e) Under the National AIDS Control Programme targeted interventions aimed at high risk groups such as sex workers, mobile populations, injecting drug users and migrant workers are being implemented by State AIDS Control Societies through the NGOs in the entire country. Currently there are 157 targeted intervention programmes for sex workers. The unit cost of reaching out to 1000 sex workers is Rs. 12,08,500 per year.

The funds are released by the State AIDS Control Societies to implementing NGOs after satisfaction on appropriate utilization of funds and verification of their performance.

The services provided under the targeted intervention programme are: Providing information, education and communication aimed at bringing out behaviour change, counselling, condom promotion providing care and support services and treatment for sexually transmitted infections as also creating an enabling environment that will facilitate behavioural change.